AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. - 20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a virtual private network over an internet, the method comprising:

 providing a graphical user interface configured to display <u>a list of switches, and for one of the switches, a menu of links, each link</u> ~~at least one link~~ for accessing, via the internet, a web-page generated by a web-server associated with [[a]] <u>the</u> switch offering virtual private network functions.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein ~~the link~~ <u>each of the links</u> comprises an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) link.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein <u>at least one of the links</u> ~~the link~~ comprises a link to a web-page comprising information describing users of the virtual private network functions provided by the switch.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein <u>at least one of the links</u> ~~the link~~ comprises a link to a web-page comprising information describing packet filters provided by the switch.

25.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein <u>at least one of the links</u> ~~the link~~

comprises a link to a web-page comprising information describing access hours of the switch.

26.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

transmitting an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) request when a link is selected by a

user; and

accessing a web-page associated with the <u>selected</u> link in response to the HTTP request, the

web-page comprising configuration information related to the switch.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising:

modifying the configuration information of the switch via the accessed web-page.

28.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, ~~further comprising:~~

~~transmitting an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) request when a link is selected by a user~~

<u>wherein each of the links correspond to a uniform resource locator (URL), and the graphical user</u>

<u>interface prepares each URL by prepending an IP address of the switch to a predefined web-page</u>

<u>location.</u>

29.   (Currently Amended)   A method of managing a virtual private network, the method

comprising providing a graphical user interface display that includes:

a list of extranet switches offering virtual private network functions; and

a menu of HTTP links ~~at least one HTTP link~~ for an extranet switch selected from the list,

each HTTP link, when selected, ~~the at least one link~~ causing transmission of an HTTP request to

access a web-page generated by a web-server associated with the extranet switch.

30.   (Currently Amended) A system for managing a virtual private network, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable medium electronically coupled to the processor;

a plurality of instructions wherein at least a portion of said plurality of instructions are storable in the computer readable medium, and further wherein the plurality of instructions are configured to cause the processor to perform the step of:

~~providing a graphical user interface configured to display at least one link for accessing a web-page generated by a web-server associated with a switch offering virtual private network functions~~ providing a graphical user interface configured to display a list of switches, and for one of the switches, a menu of links, each link for accessing, via the internet, a web-page generated by a web-server associated with a the switch offering virtual private network functions.

31.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein ~~the~~ each link comprises an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) link.

32.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein at least one of the links ~~the link~~ comprises a link to a web-page comprising information describing users of the virtual private network functions provided by the switch.

33.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein <u>at least one of the links</u> ~~the link~~

comprises a link to a web-page comprising information describing packet filters provided by the

switch.

34.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein <u>at least one of the links</u> ~~the link~~

comprises a link to a web-page comprising information describing access hours of the switch.

35.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, further comprising:

instructions for transmitting an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) request when a link is

selected by a user; and

instructions for accessing a web-page associated with the <u>selected</u> link in response to the

HTTP request, the web-page comprising configuration information related to the switch.

36.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35 further comprising:

instructions for allowing modification of the configuration information of the switch via the

accessed web-page and for transmitting modified configuration information to the switch.

37.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, ~~further comprising instructions for causing~~

~~the processor to transmit an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) request when a link is selected~~

<u>wherein each of the links correspond to a uniform resource locator (URL), and the graphical user</u>

interface prepares each URL by prepending an IP address of the switch to a predefined web-page

location.

38.   (Currently Amended) A system for managing a virtual private network, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable medium electronically coupled to the processor;

a plurality of instructions wherein at least a portion of said plurality of instructions are storable in the computer readable medium, and further wherein the plurality of instructions are configured to cause the processor to provide a graphical user interface display that includes:

a list of extranet switches offering virtual private network functions; and

~~at least one HTTP link for an extranet switch selected from the list, the at least one link causing transmission of an HTTP request to access a web-page generated by a web-server associated with the extranet switch~~ a menu of HTTP links for an extranet switch selected from the list, each HTTP link, when selected, causing transmission of an HTTP request to access a web-page generated by a web-server associated with the extranet switch.

39.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

transmitting an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) request when the link is selected by a user;

accessing a web-page associated with the selected link in response to the HTTP request, the web-page comprising configuration information related to the switch, the configuration information

including information describing users of the virtual private network functions provided by the switch; and

modifying at least a portion of the configuration information of the switch via the accessed web-page.